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3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the [capability information and the configuration information are in the format of the common] formatting steps include formatting into the standardized, predefined abstract resource information model independent of a vendor and a version of the base station.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-15 remain in this application following entrance of the above amendment.

The Examiner's careful attention to the present application is appreciated. Claims 1-15 now stand rejected based on Thro. The above amendments and the following remarks address this rejection.

The present invention is unique in that it is the first method and apparatus that ensures reliable introductions of base stations into a communication network using a plug and play routine. Namely, whenever base stations are added to an existing communication network, the present base station communicates its capabilities to the network, the network configures the base station based on those capabilities and the needs of the network, and communicates that configuration to the base station. Upon receipt, the base station programs itself to operate in accordance with the configuration provided by the network. The presently claimed invention is unique because the base

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stations and networks begin their communications using a standardized information model that ensures that both the base station and the network know and understand both the capability information sent from the base station to the network and the configuration information sent from the network to the base station.

Thro discloses base stations communicating information regarding the infrastructure transceiver to a configuration server and the configuration server returning configuration information to the base station. But, in Thro, the communication made between the base station and the configuration server is necessarily hardware and software specific to the base station and configuration server. That is, in Thro, the communications between the base station and the configuration server risk unreliability when base stations are introduced from different vendors using different softwares/ hardwares and different product versions. Thro readily indicates that such specifics as hardware component versions, software version numbers, and the like may need to be part of the information communicated to the configuration manager in the operating capabilities information communicated to the configuration server. Col. 4, lines 25-46. Thro never discloses that the communications of capability and configuration information is best done via a standardized, predefined abstract resource information model already known to both the new base station and the configuration server. Nor does Thro disclose or suggest that both the capabilities and the configuration information can be communicated by the same standardized model.

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A problem with Thro is that eventually the base station and configuration server technologies can be expected to diverge to the point that either the base station won't know what type, vendor, version, etc. the configuration server configuration communications are derived from, or the configuration server won't know the type, vendor, version etc. of the hardware/software dependent characteristics communicated from the base station. With Thro, the life of the configuration/capabilities communications scheme is necessarily limited by how long the new base station and new/old configuration server technologies can continue to understand each other.

That is not so with the present invention since the base station and network manager communicate their information using a standardized, predefined abstract resource information model, which is known to both the base station and the network manager. With the standardized model, communications between the base station and the network manager will be understood by both, regardless of such things as vendor type, version number, software module number, operation system characteristics, etc.

An example abstract resource information model is shown in Figure 5 of the present invention. As pointed out by the Examiner, page 12 of the application indicates that one aspect of the model is that it relays base station capability information. While Thro discloses relaying base station capability information, it does not teach or suggest that the information *first* be modeled into a standardized format that the configuration server is sure to know and understand. Nor does it indicate that the configuration

information provided in return follow the same standardized model. Without those features, any plug and play capability of Thro may be limited to particular base station vendor types, product version numbers, software module types, etc.

The above-described patentable distinctions are clearly in the present claim language. First, independent claim 1 recites two different steps of formatting the capability/configuration information "into the standardized, predefined abstract resource information model." Claim 1 also recites that the communications between the base station and network manager are in accordance with that standardized model ("communicating to the network manager the capability information formatted into the standardized, predefined abstract resource information model" and "communicating to the base station the configuration information formatted into the standardized, predefined abstract resource information model").

Dependent claim 3 adds that the model is software and hardware independent, i.e., it is not changed when different vendors and versions of the base station are newly introduced. This is a feature which is nowhere found in Thro; and indeed, Thro suggests instead that the vendor and versions of the base station may be necessary to establishment of the communications.

Independent claim 7 also recites an "abstract resource management layer" in the base station, which is nowhere found in Thro. Claim 7 also indicates that the management layer models the base station hardware and software capabilities without

being dependent on any format of that hardware and software. That feature is also not described or suggested by Thro.

Dependent claim 10 indicates that the operational capabilities and the configuration information are both formatted to the model. Thro makes no such statement regarding the format of the operational capabilities and configuration information; but, instead makes the possibly faulty presumption that the base station and configuration server will always understand the operational capabilities and configuration information being communicated to them.

The present claims recited a fundamental and patentable advantage over Thro. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the above amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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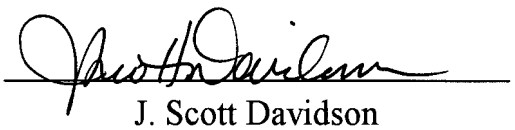
By: 

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